



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 30, 1997

### **S. 923, As Amended**

#### **An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit interment or memorialization in certain cemeteries of persons convicted of federal capital crimes**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
on September 11, 1997*

Veterans are eligible for burial in a national cemetery if they were discharged or separated from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable. Members of the armed forces who die on active duty, spouses, and minor children of veterans are also eligible. In addition, areas in national cemeteries may be set aside to honor the memory of veterans who are missing in action or whose remains are not available for burial. This act would prohibit burial in federally funded cemeteries of persons convicted of federal capital crimes for which the death penalty or a sentence of life imprisonment was imposed. It would also prohibit memorial areas for such persons.

CBO estimates that enactment of this legislation would have an insignificant effect on the federal budget. Using data from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Federal Bureau of Prisons, CBO estimates that the act would apply to few, if any, persons each year. According to information from the National Cemetery Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the cost savings would be several hundred dollars per person.

Because the act could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply--but any such effects would be negligible. The act contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The estimate was prepared by Mary Helen Petrus. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.